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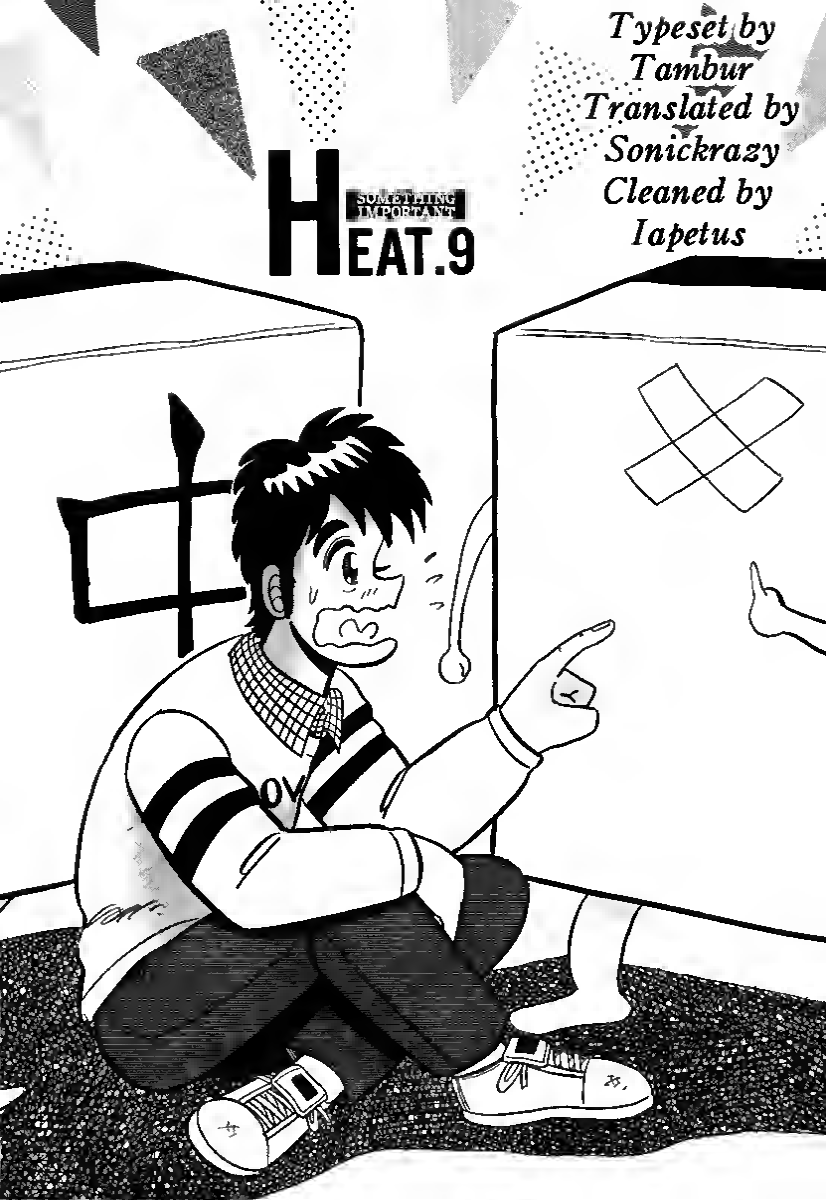
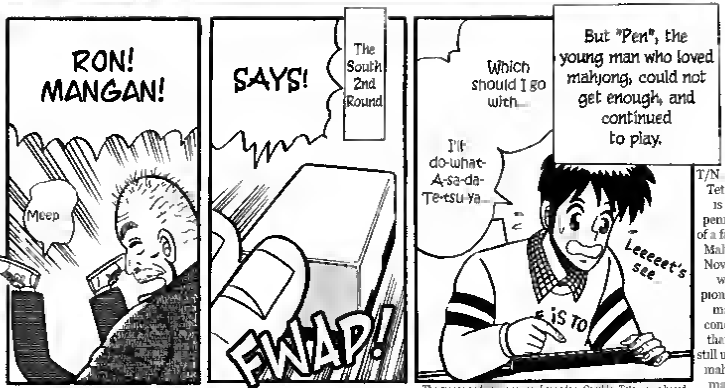
HEAT.9

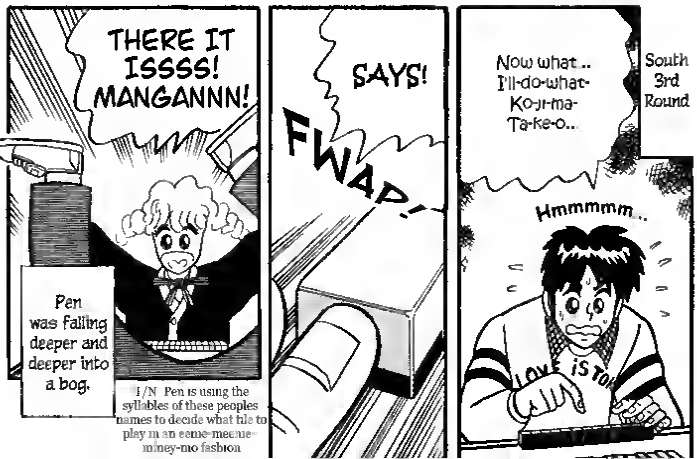
SOMETHING IMPORTANT





T/N Asada Tetsuya is the penname of a famous Mahjong Novellist who pioneered many concepts that are still used in mahjong manga today

The manga and anime series Legendary Gambler Tetsuya is based on his books and the main character is a fictionalized version of him

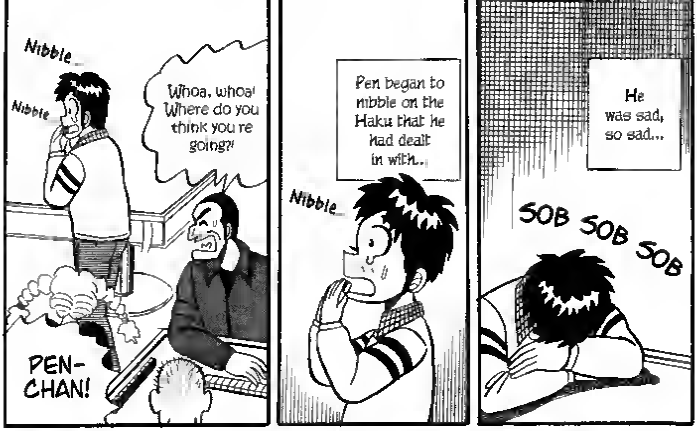


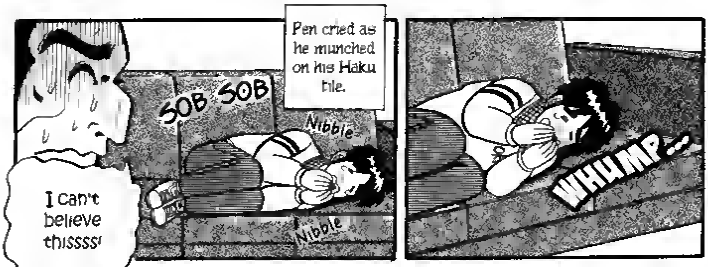
T/N Pen is using the syllables of these peoples names to decide what tile to play in an eeme-meeme-miney-mo fashion

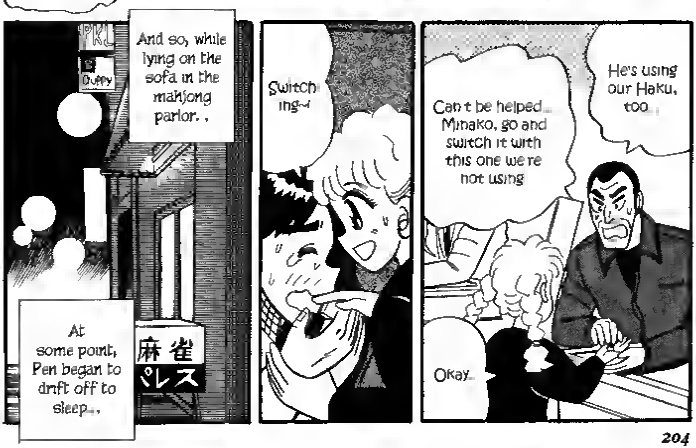
T/N Kojima Takeo is a legendary mahjong player who some call the best in the world.

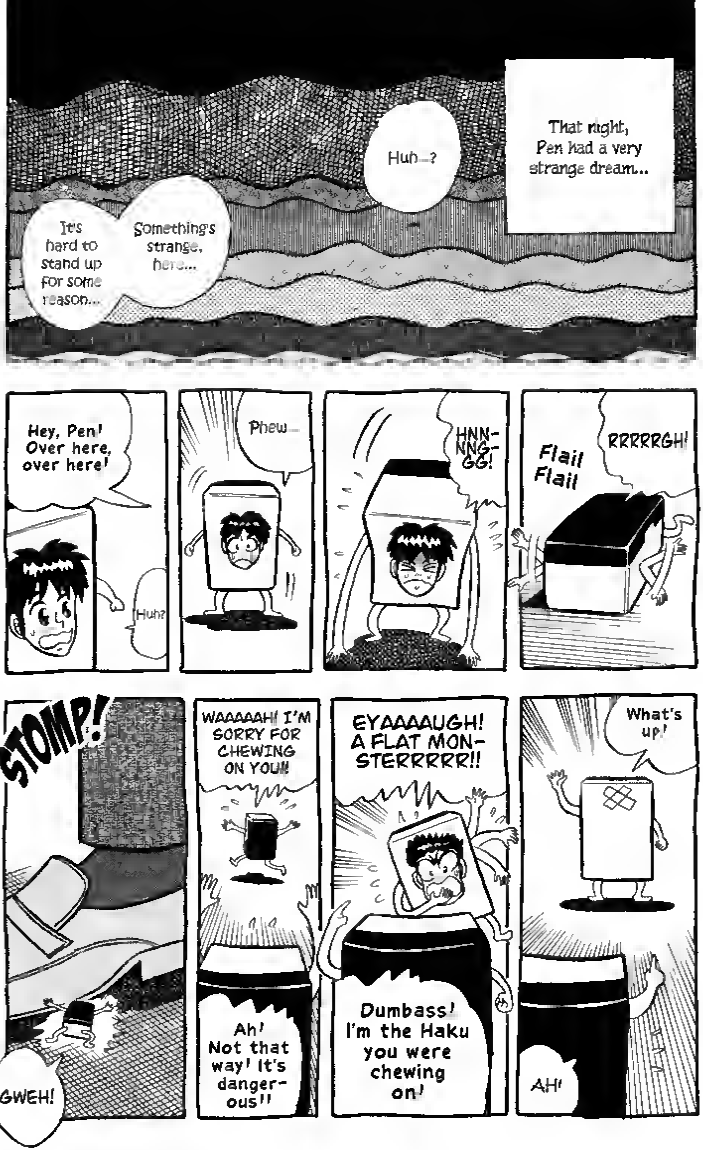
CLACK
South 4th Round
二萬 二萬 七萬 七萬 九萬 九萬
I'll do what A-sa-da-Te-tsu ya and Ko-ji-ma-Ta-ke-o and Ba-ba-Yu-u-i-chi
Which should I pick...
I've gotta be more careful this time...
It couldn't happen 3 times in a row, could it...?
Ehhhhh! I can play the Haku for tenpai, again
LOVE IS TOKYO
RON! SAN-BAIMAN!
FW SAY!
AP!
It felt like he couldn't rely on anyone...
Like he had been forsaken and left to sink...
Pen was sinking from a muddy bog into a poop-filled bog...
Blub
Blub

T/N Baba Yuuichi is another famous Mahjong Professional.

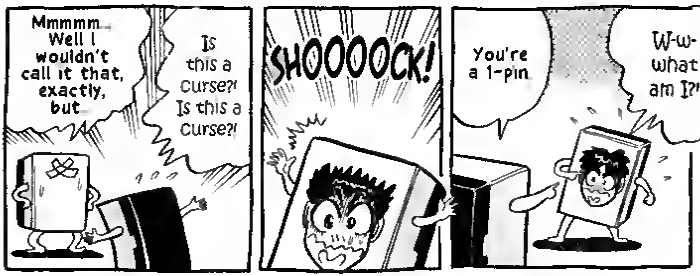

Nibble
Nibble
Whoa, whoa! Where do you think you're going?
PEN-CHAN!
Pen began to nibble on the Haku that he had dealt in with...
Nibble
He was sad, so sad...
SOB SOB SOB

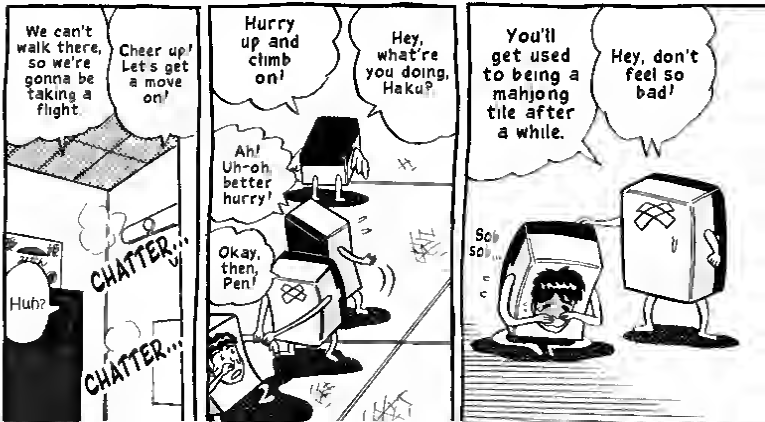

Pen cried as he munched on his Haku tile.
SOB SOB
Nibble
Nibble
I can't believe thisssss
WHUMP...

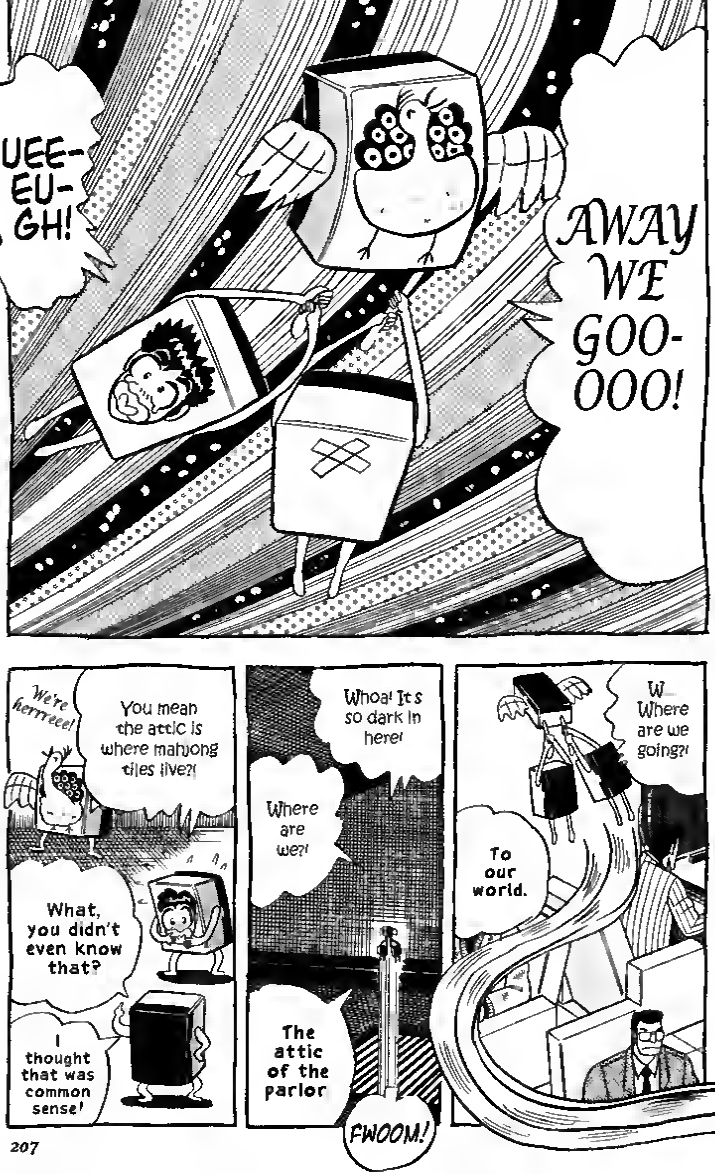

And so, while lying on the sofa in the mahjong parlor...
At some point, Pen began to drift off to sleep...
麻雀
パレス
Switching
Can't be helped... Minako, go and switch it with this one we're not using
He's using our Haku, too...
Okay...

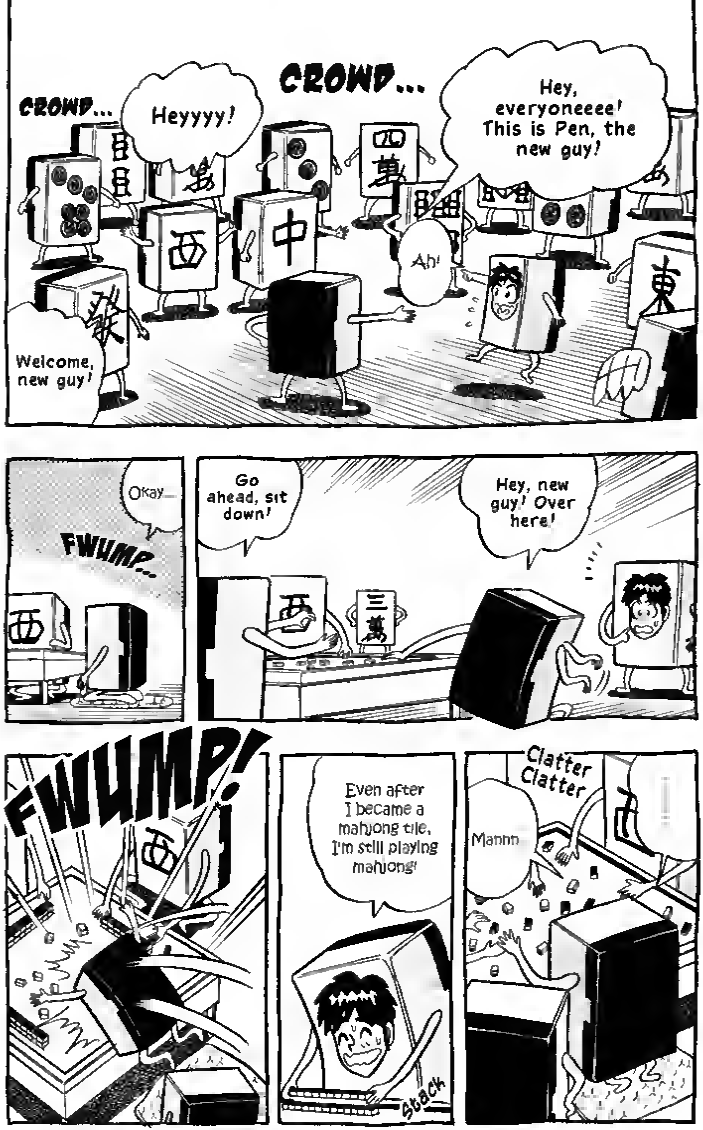

That night, Pen had a very strange dream...
Huh—?
Something's strange, here...
It's hard to stand up for some reason...
Hey, Pen! Over here, over here!
Huh?
Phew...
HNN-NNG-GG!
Flail Flail
RRRRRGH!
STOMP!
GWEH!
WAAAAAH! I'M SORRY FOR CHEWING ON YOU!!
Ah! Not that way! It's danger-ous!!
EYAAAAUGH! A FLAT MON-STERRRRR!!
Dumbass! I'm the Haku you were chewing on!
What's up!
AH!

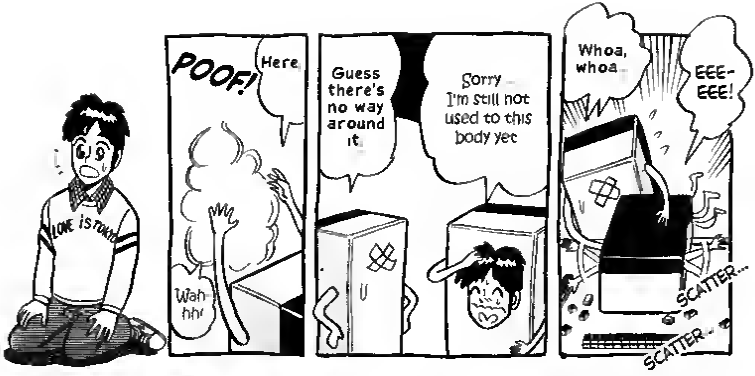
BELOW THE MAHJONG TABLE
WAAA-AAHHH! WHAT IS THIS?!
GIAAAA-AANTS!!
EYAA-AAAUGH!

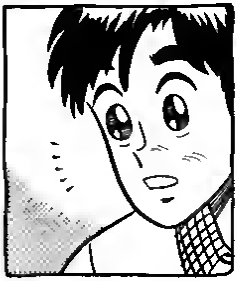

Mmmmm... Well I wouldn't call it that, exactly, but...
Is this a curse?! Is this a curse?!
SHOOOOCK!
You're a 1-pin.
W-w-what am I?!

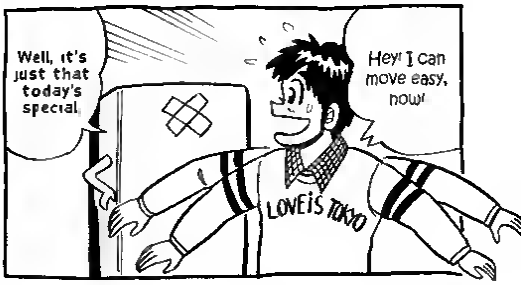

We can't walk there, so we're gonna be taking a flight.
Cheer up! Let's get a move on!
CHATTER...
Huh?
CHATTER...
Hurry up and climb on!
Hey, what're you doing, Haku?
Ah! Uh-oh, better hurry!
Okay, then, Pen!
You'll get used to being a mahjong tile after a while.
Hey, don't feel so bad!
So so...


UEE-EU-GH!
AWAY WE GOO-OOO!
We're herrreee!
You mean the attic is where mahjong tiles live?!
What, you didn't even know that?
I thought that was common sense!
Whoa! It's so dark in here!
Where are we?!
The attic of the parlor
FWOOM!
W-Where are we going?!
To our world.


CROWD...
Heyyyy!
CROWD...
Hey, everyoneeee! This is Pen, the new guy!
Ah!
Welcome, new guy!
Okay...
FWUMP...
Go ahead, sit down!
Hey, new guy! Over here!
FWUMP!
Even after I became a mahjong tile, I'm still playing mahjong!
SMACK
Clatter Clatter
Mahhh

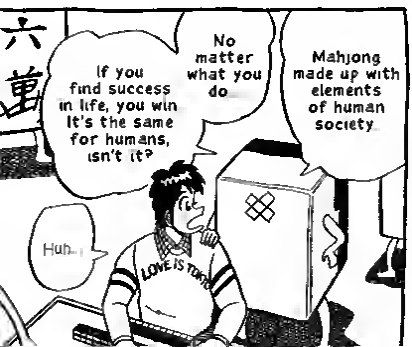






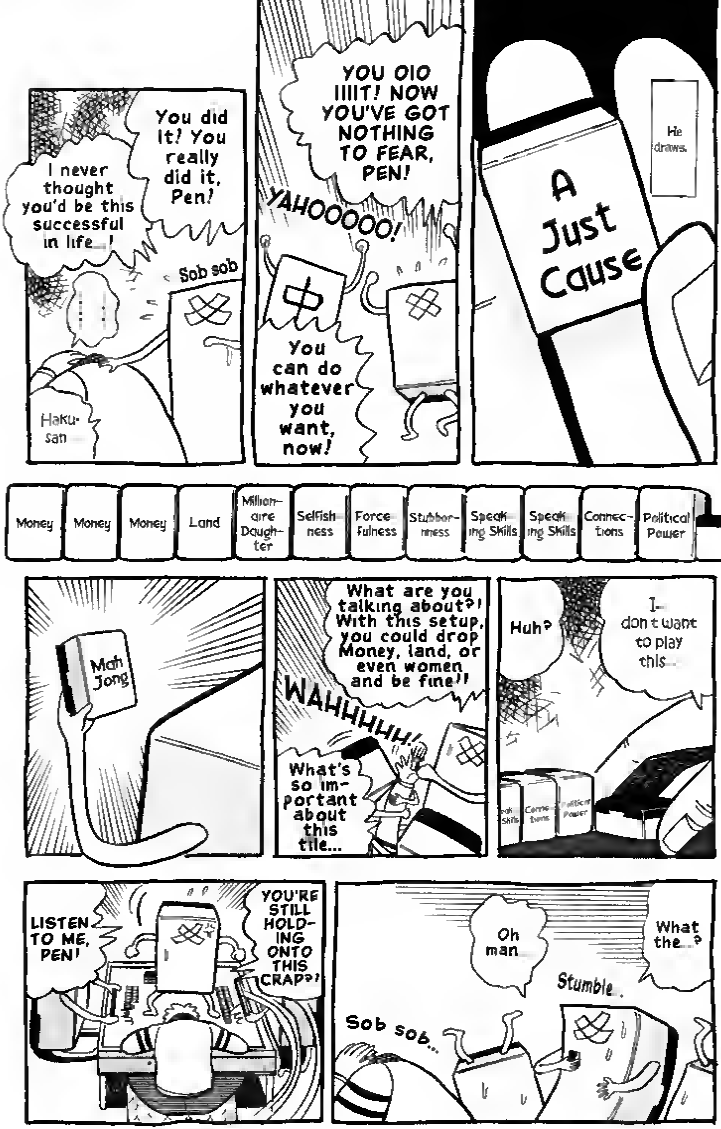
Pen-Chan's Startling Hand

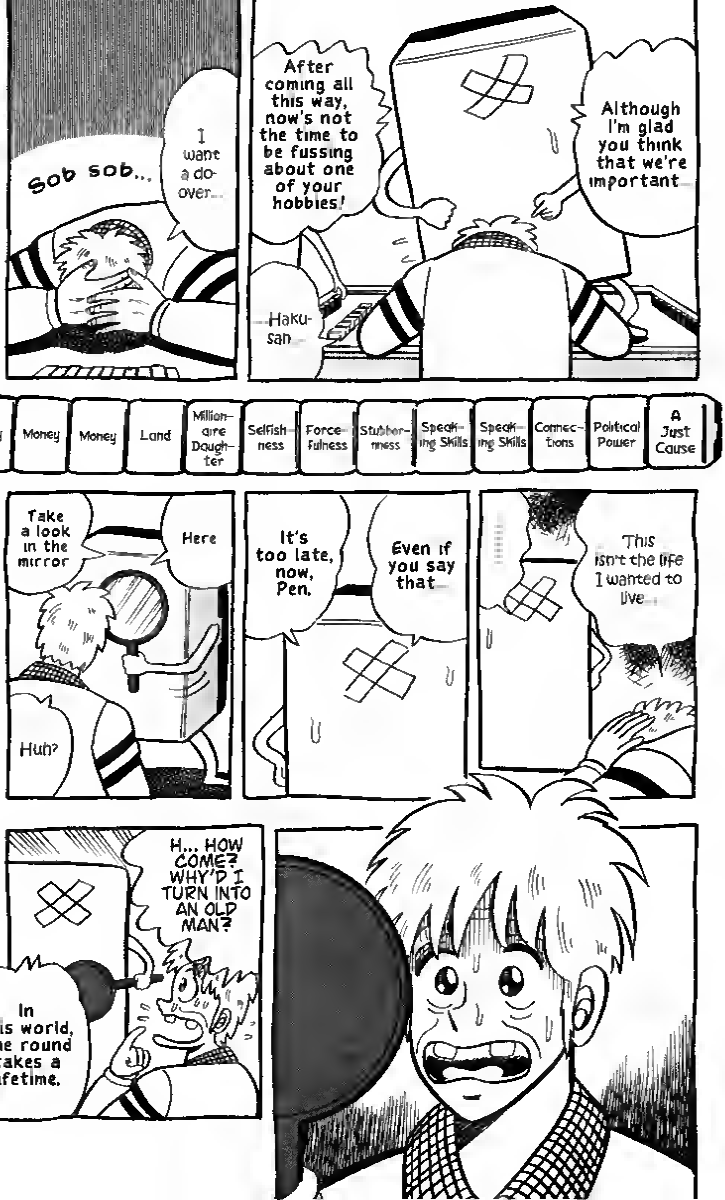
Pa-chinko (game)	Kind-ness	Travel	Katsu-obushi (Food)	Katsu-obushi (Food)	Festi-vals	Ping-Pong	A nice, sunny spot	Basking in the Sun	Daughter from Izu Fishing Village	Being an Alto	Mother	Land

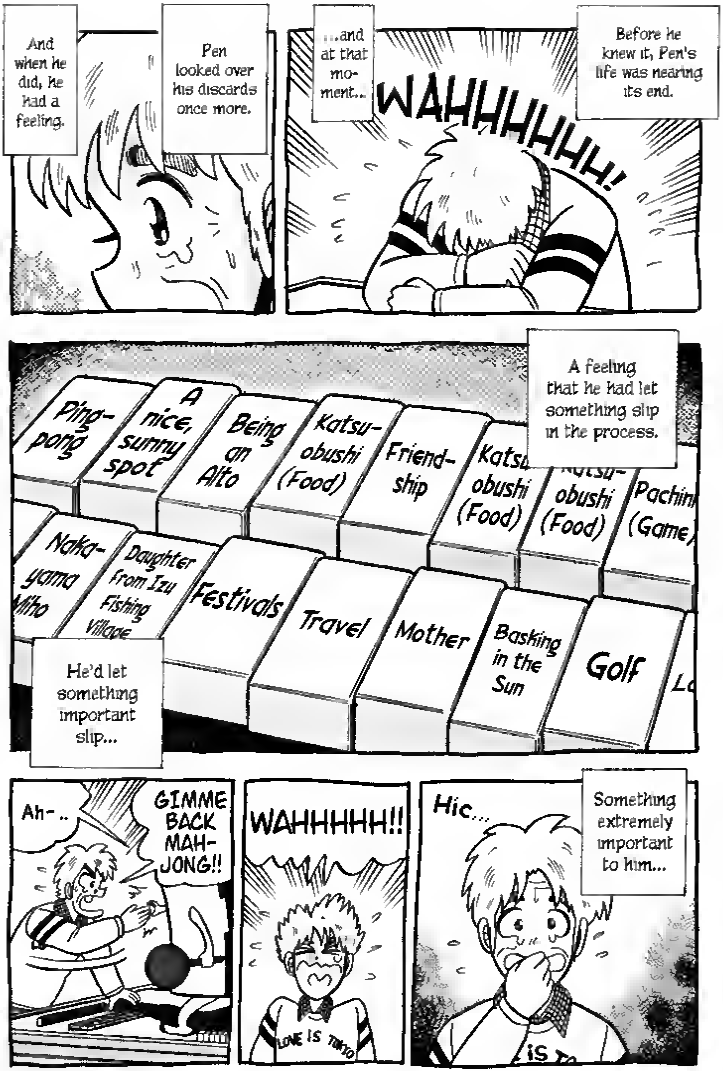

If you find success in life, you win It's the same for humans, isn't it?
No matter what you do...
Mahjong made up with elements of human society...
Huh...
LOVE IS TOKYO

You're not gonna find success this way
Pa-chinko (game)
Travel
Katsu-obushi (food)
Katsu-obushi (food)
Festi-vals
Ping-Pong
A nice, sunny spot
Basking in the Sun
Daughter from Izu Fishing Village
Ground
But this is a pretty crappy starting hand
AHH! NO, YOU IDIOT!
DON'T!
Well, I don't play golf, so...
I'll just play it
Pen draws the "Golf" tile.
Well, anyway, take your draw!
Huhhh...
LOVE IS TOKYO
I see...
You should discard Ping-Pong first
Ping-Pong
SHAP!
Huh...
And it's also seen as a status symbol later in life
If you ever need to do corporate entertainment, you'll need to play Golf...
Idiot! What do you need all that Katsuobushi for?!
BONK!
Ah! I got a closed triplet of Katsuobushis!
He draws the "Katsu-obushi" tile.
He discards "Being an Alto"
Being an Alto
Pen draws the "Sail-plane" tile.
Sailplan
IS TOKYO

Dumbass! What do you mean?!
Ummmmm... What do I play now...
You just drew "Millionaire Daughter"...
WHOAAAA!
It started with draws of "Money", "Money", "Money", "Land", and "Millionaire Daughter".
However, from there, Pen started drawing very good tiles...
LOVE IS TOKYO
YEAHHHH!
From there, he drew "Stubbornness", "Forcefulness", and "Selfishness".
EEEEEEE!!
So get rid of this "Daughter from Izu Fishing Village"!!
Daughter from Izu Fishing Village
This is great! You might even become prime minster at this rate!!
YEAAAAAH!!
And then, he draws 2 "speaking skills" tiles in a row.
YOU'RE ON PACE TO BE A MAJOR POLITICIAN!!
THIS IS AMAZING, PEN!
Oh yeah...?

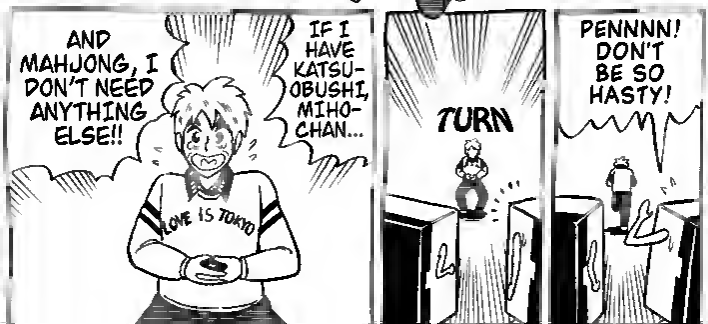

You did it! You really did it, Pen!
I never thought you'd be this successful in life...!
Sob sob
Haku-san
YOU DID IIIIT! NOW YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO FEAR, PEN!
YAHOOOOO!
You can do whatever you want, now!
He draws.
A Just Cause
Money
Money
Money
Land
Million-aire Daugh-ter
Selfish-ness
Force-fulness
Stubbor-nness
Speak-ing Skills
Speak-ing Skills
Connec-tions
Political Power
Mah Jong
What are you talking about?! With this setup, you could drop Money, land, or even women and be fine!!
WAHHHHH!
What's so im-portant about this tile...
Huh?
I-don't want to play this...
LISTEN TO ME, PEN!
YOU'RE STILL HOLD-ING ONTO THIS CRAP?!
Oh man...
What the...?
Stumble...
Sob sob...

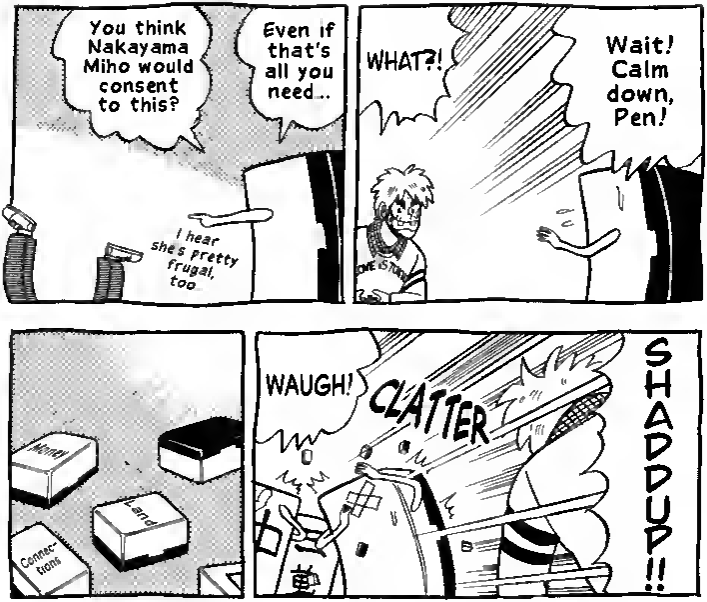

Sob sob...
I want a do-over...
After coming all this way, now's not the time to be fussing about one of your hobbies!
Although I'm glad you think that we're important...
Haku-san...
Money
Money
Money
Land
Millionaire Daughter
Selfishness
Forcefulness
Stubbornness
Speaking Skills
Speaking Skills
Connections
Political Power
A Just Cause
Take a look in the mirror
Here
Huh?
It's too late, now, Pen.
Even if you say that...
This isn't the life I wanted to live...
H... HOW COME? WHY'D I TURN INTO AN OLD MAN?
In this world, one round takes a lifetime.


And when he did, he had a feeling.
Pen looked over his discards once more.
...and at that moment...
WAHHHHHH!
Before he knew it, Pen's life was nearing its end.
A feeling that he had let something slip in the process.
Ping-pong
A nice, sunny spot
Being an Alto
Katsu-obushi (Food)
Friend-ship
Katsu-obushi (Food)
Katsu-obushi (Food)
Pachin (Game)
Naka-yama Miho
Daughter from Izu Fishing Village
Festivals
Travel
Mother
Basking in the Sun
Golf
He'd let something important slip...
Ah-..
GIMME BACK MAH-JONG!!
WAHHHHH!!
LOVE IS TOKYO
Hic...
Something extremely important to him...

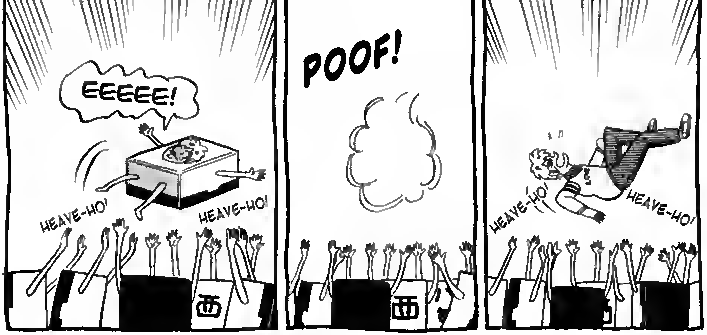
T/N Nakayama Miho is a Japanese singer actress and model

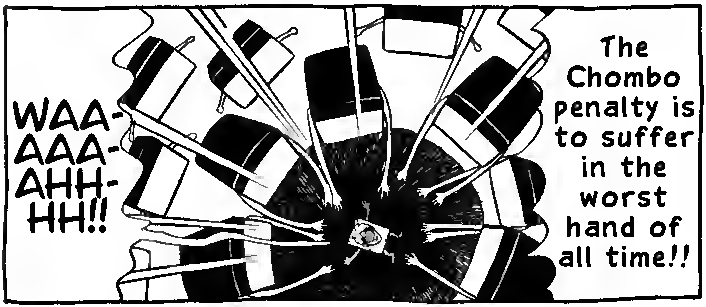
WHA-AAA-AT?!
It was Katsu-obushi and Nakayama Miho!
What tiles did Pen run off with?
PENNNN!!
He's got a lot of energy for an old man!!
Ahhh! He's getting away!

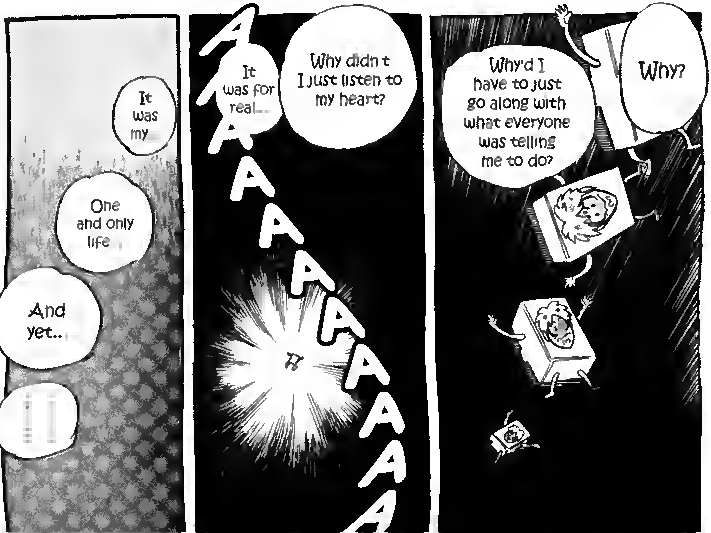


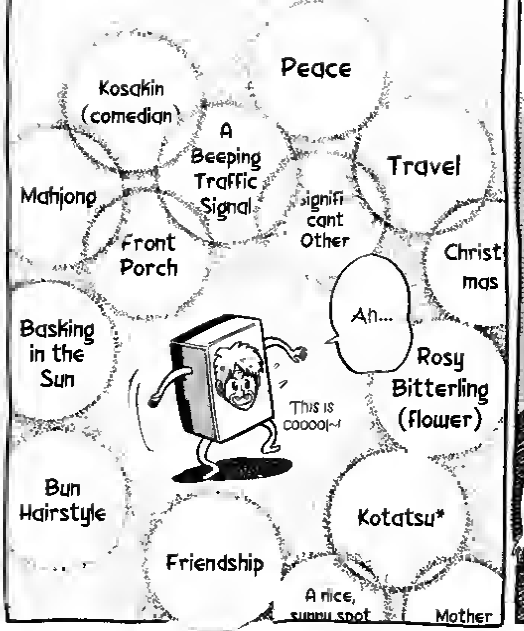


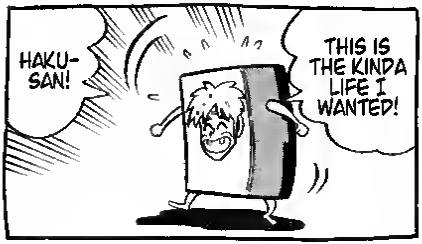
T/N A chombo is a severe penalty in mahjong given to players who break the rules or mess up the game such that the previous state cannot be recovered.

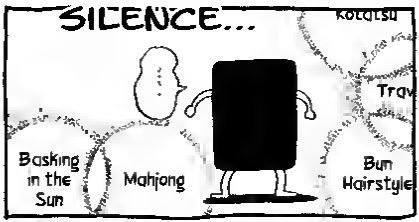

EEEEE!
HEAVE-HO!
HEAVE-HO!
POOF!
HEAVE-HO!
HEAVE-HO!

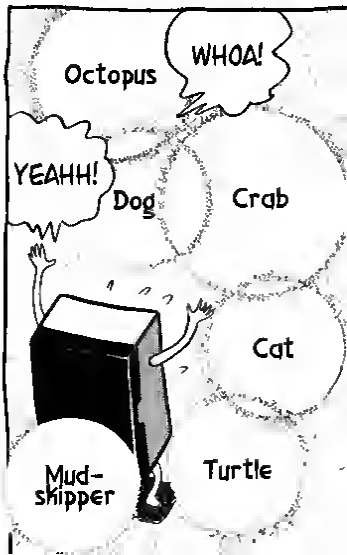

WAA-AAA-AHH-HH!!
The Chombo penalty is to suffer in the worst hand of all time!!


It was my
One and only life
And yet...
It was for real...
Why didn't I just listen to my heart?
AAAAAAAAAA
Why'd I have to just go along with what everyone was telling me to do?
Why?

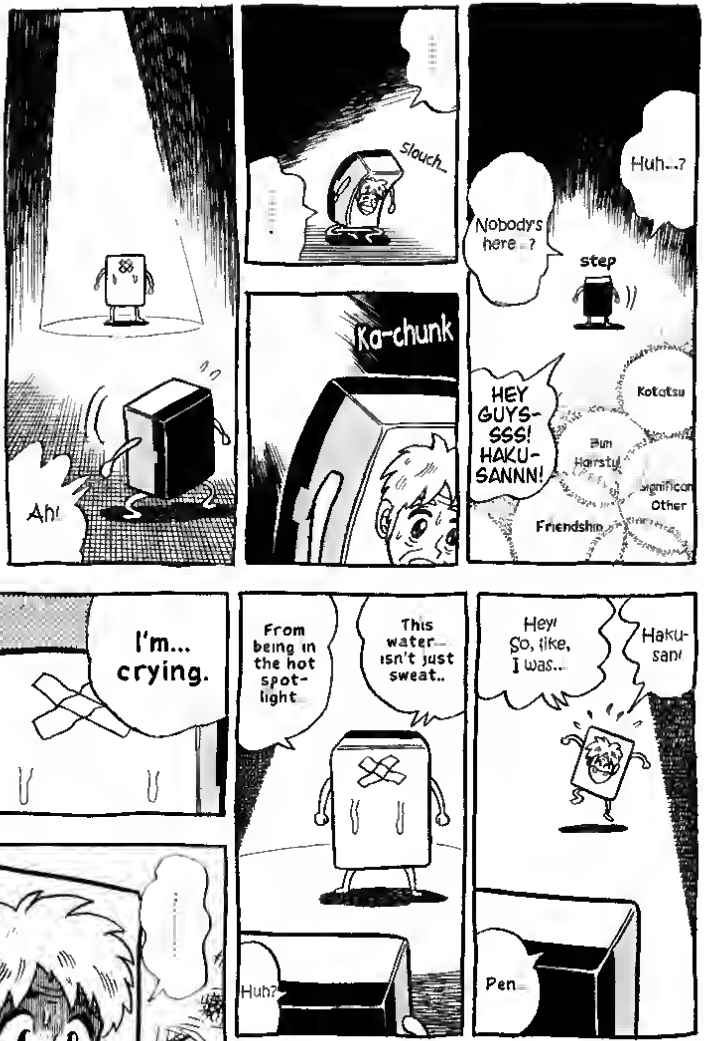


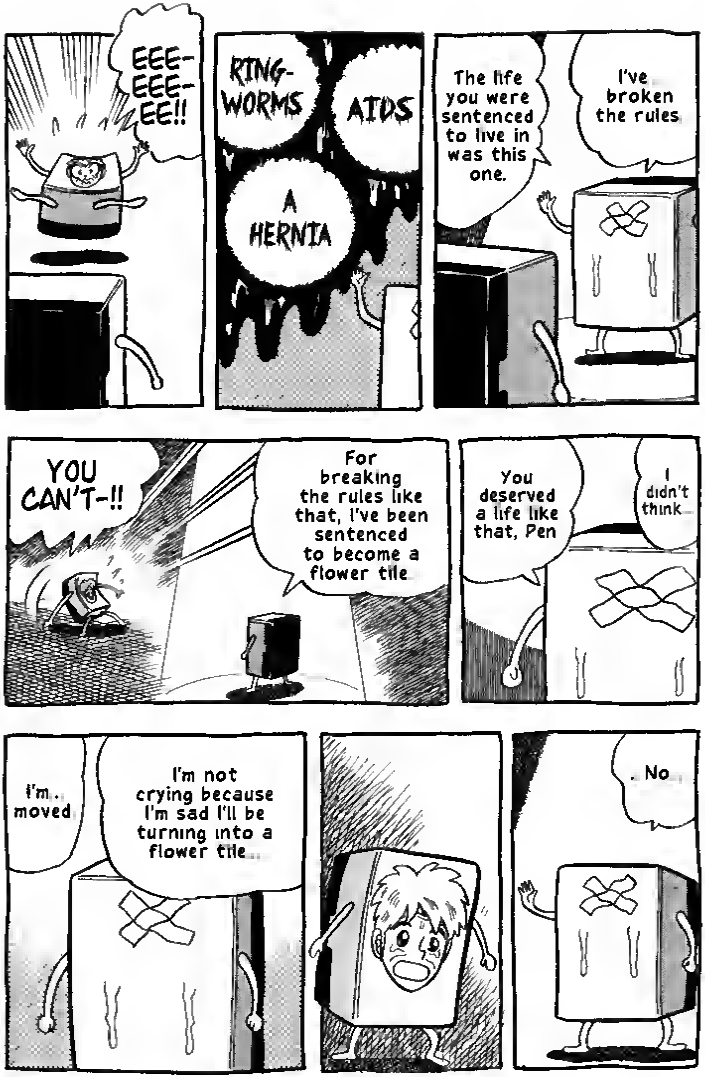


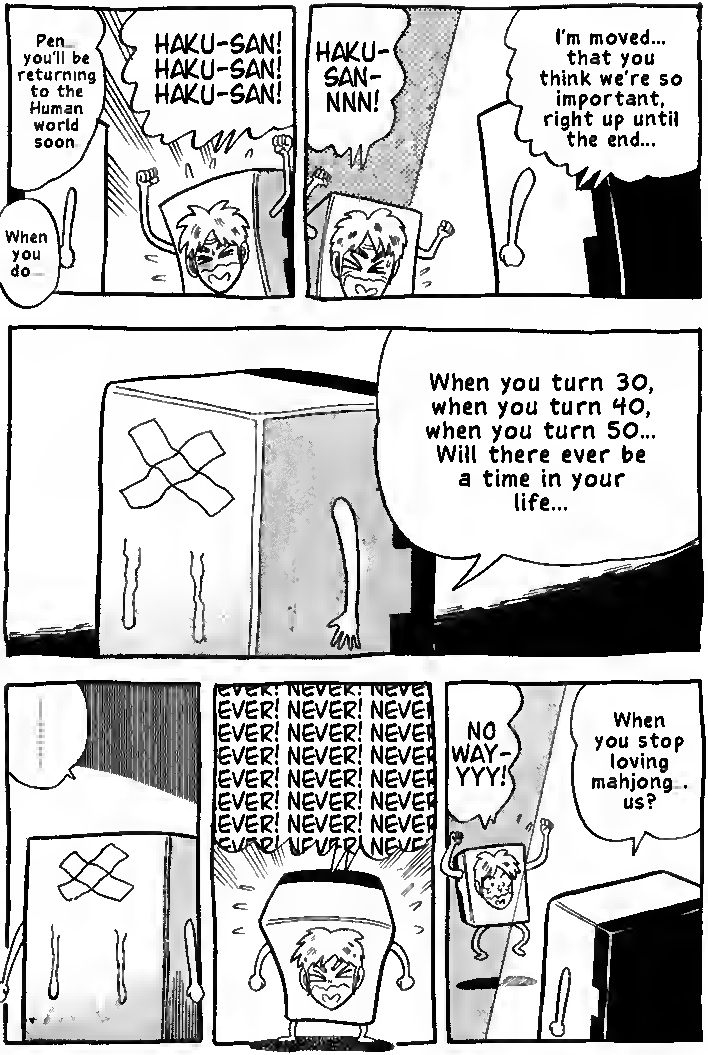




*T/N: A Kotatsu is a low, wooden table frame covered by a futon, or heavy blanket, upon which a table top sits. Underneath is a heat source, often built into the table itself. Used for keeping warm in the winter


Ah!
slouch
Ka-chunk
Huh...?
Nobody's here...?
step
HEY GUYS-SSS! HAKU-SANNN!
Kotatsu
Friendship
I'm... crying.
From being in the hot spot-light...
This water... isn't just sweat..
Huh?
Hey! So, like, I was...
Haku-san!
Pen...


EEE-EEE-EE!!
RING-WORMS
AIDS
A HERNIA
The life you were sentenced to live in was this one.
I've broken the rules
YOU CAN'T-!!
For breaking the rules like that, I've been sentenced to become a flower tile
You deserved a life like that, Pen
I didn't think
I'm... moved
I'm not crying because I'm sad I'll be turning into a flower tile...
No


Pen_ you'll be returning to the Human world soon
When you do—
HAKU-SAN! HAKU-SAN! HAKU-SAN!
HAKU-SAN-NNN!
I'm moved... that you think we're so important, right up until the end...
When you turn 30, when you turn 40, when you turn 50... Will there ever be a time in your life...
EVER! NEVER! NEVER!
NO WAY-YYY!
When you stop loving mahjong_. us?

Haku-san...
Haku-san...
HAKU-SAN!
CLICK
Live life however you want, Pen...
Then that's all I need.
Ah...
HEY! PEN-CHAN!!
Haku-san...
shake shake
Pen-chan!
Haku-san...
Oh... yeah...
What's the matter? You sounded like you were having a night-mare...

Ah...
CHATTER...
CHATTER...
Staaaaaare...
Waugh!
HAKU-SAN! HAKU-SAN! HAKU-SAN!
FWUMP...
I just switched it a bit ago!
I KNEW IT! HAKU TURNED INTO A FLOWER TIIIIILE!
I knew it...
And many feelings gathered up in his chest
He had been deeply moved by his dream...
Sniffle
Sniffle
Pen-chan could not help but think this flower tile was what that Haku had turned into.
Sob sob
What's the matter with him?
I'm just as clueless as you are!

Even with that...
However...
I'll do what A-sa-da Te-tsu-ya...
No longer did he ask for the help of famous mahjong players.
Even if he lost, he would not blame it on his tiles.
Only
Pen-chan's daily life did not change one bit.
RON! MANGAN!
WHAP!
DOESN'T SAY!
He truly hadn't changed at all.
Pen-chan would never change, his whole life long.
And if he could help it...